

undersurface 19c of the stopper 19 by employing the plate springs 18 capable of providing the cover holding-down function, each plate spring having the one end 18b fixed to the pivot arm 16 and the other end 18a used to support the arm fixed to the cover 15 in a floating condition, the stopper 19 mounted to the pivot arm 16 and the position sensor 20. In the method of driving the cover 15 to open and close the opening face 14a of the container 14, by employing the container 14 having the opening face 14a, the cover 15 for covering the opening face 14a of the container 14, the pivot arms 16 coupled to the cover 15 and the pivot unit 17 for making the cover 15 open and close the opening face 14a of the container 14 by pivoting the pivot arms 16, the method of opening and closing the cover is such that when the cover 15 closes the seal member (O-ring) or the opening face 14a of the container 14, the moving velocity of the pivot arms 16 is lowered on this side where the cover 15 is brought into contact with the seal member (O-ring) or the opening face 14a of the container 14; or otherwise the art of opening and closing the cover is such that when the cover 15 is opened, the pivot arms are moved at a predetermined low velocity until the cover 15 is separated by a predetermined quantity from the opening face 14a of the container 14 and the pivot arm is moved at a velocity higher than the predetermined low velocity when the cover 15 is separated by a predetermined quantity therefrom.